

# U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION



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## **“OPERATION FALCON III” FUELED BY ADAM WALSH ACT ROUNDS UP THOUSANDS OF FUGITIVES NATIONWIDE”**

**Cincinnati, Ohio** – Deputy United States Marshals teamed up with thousands of fellow federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to conduct the largest ever round up of fugitive sex-offenders and wanted gang members. Dubbed “Operation FALCON III” (Federal And Local Cops Organized Nationally), Deputy Marshals and their fellow task force members arrested 10,773 felony fugitives. This number includes 1,659 sex offenders and 364 documented gang members.

**James M. Wahlrab**, U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio, headed the local task force for the district. “It is imperative that we continue to work together with our state and local counterparts to ensure that violent criminals and sexual predators are taken off the streets and kept off. With the help of the U.S. Attorney and the collaboration of partnering agencies, these arrests highlight our cooperation in the ongoing effort to establish safer communities for residents in Cincinnati and surrounding areas.”

Honing in on sexual predators and fugitive gang members, Operation FALCON III’s success comes on the heels of the “Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act,” which was signed into law by President Bush on July 27, 2006. The Act makes it a federal felony, punishable by up to ten years imprisonment, for convicted sex offenders who fail to register and who travel in interstate or foreign commerce. The U.S. Marshals Service was designated by the Act as the agency to lead the national effort to track down and arrest these fugitive felons.

U.S. Attorney **Gregory G. Lockhart** for the Southern District of Ohio, added, “As U.S. Attorney, our role is to ensure that people are called to justice for the crimes they have committed. The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act and the results of Operation FALCON III will help us achieve that goal.”

In the Cincinnati area, Operation FALCON III participants cleared 179 active warrants and made 83 physical arrests. Some of the significant arrests included:

Bernard CRAIG was wanted for Violation of a Temporary Protection Order (TPO) and in a separate case for Rape and Kidnapping. On 8/8/1993, CRAIG allegedly Kidnapped the victim

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by force and restrained her for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity. At the time of the Kidnapping/Rape, there were no charges filed because the perpetrator could not be identified. Thirteen years later, Craig was eventually identified as the perpetrator and charges were filed in September 2006. On 10/22/06, FALCON III task force members located Craig at 1215 Neff Avenue, Cincinnati and he was subsequently taken into custody.

Fredrick GHOLSTON. On 8/28/02, Butler County Sheriff's Department issued an arrest warrant for GHOLSTON for escape. Ohio Adult Parole Authority then issued a warrant on 9/27/05 for Parole Violation. GHOLSTON is a Sexual Predator, dating back to 1998, in Butler County where he was convicted of Forcible Rape and Gross Sexual Imposition against a child. On 10/23/06, FALCON III investigators tracked GHOLSTON to Mount Pleasant, Texas, where, with the help from U.S. Marshals in Eastern Texas, determined that GHOLSTON was living in the area and was working at the local Pilgrims Pride Chicken Packaging Plant. U.S. Marshals from Tyler, Texas then arrested GHOLSTON at Pilgrims Pride without incident on 10/23/06. During questioning, GHOLSTON admitted to being a fugitive from Ohio, and that he had never registered as a Sexual Offender in either Ohio or Texas. GHOLSTON is in custody in Eastern Texas, where he is awaiting extradition back to the State of Ohio. Further criminal charges for violations of the Adam Walsh Act are also pending at this time.

On 07/05/2006, Rayshane FEARS attempted to rob another individual at gunpoint. During the course of the robbery FEARS shot the victim and attempted to shoot him a second time as the victim fled the scene. On 10/26/2006, members of the FALCON III task force arrested Rayshane FEARS who was wanted by the Springfield Township Police Department and Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for aggravated robbery and felonious assault. FEARS was arrested at 100 River Boat Row, Newport, KY. He is being held at the Campbell County Jail, KY, and is awaiting extradition to Hamilton County.

#### The supporting and participating agencies in the Cincinnati area included:

Forest Park Police Department, Springfield Township Police Department, Cincinnati Police Department, Butler County Sheriff's Department, Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, Butler County Probation Department, Ohio Adult Parole Authority, Warren County Prosecutors Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement Division (ICE), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

#### **PHOTOS/VIDEO AVAILABLE**

The Marshals Service has photos of actual arrests during the Operation available to press at [www.usmarshals.gov/falcon3](http://www.usmarshals.gov/falcon3), as well as fact sheets on arrests nationwide and in each of the participating districts. Dossiers on the "FALCON 15," describing 15 of the most significant cases closed during the Operation are available to media at the site.